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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM SHEEHY, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we come before You today with hearts full of gratitude for Your continuous blessings, unwavering love, and amazing grace.

We ask that You would be with our lawmakers. Keep them safe, faithful, and true. Lord, give them hearts to make a powerful impact upon the lives of their constituents. Use our Senators also as they seek to make this Nation a shining city upon a hill that will illuminate the darkness of our path ahead. Help them to understand that You are their sure foundation, their mighty fortress, and their shelter in the time of storms. Empower them as they seek to bring peace to our world.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM SHEEHY, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SHEEHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leader time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last month, a Sioux Falls, SD, police officer responded to a report of a weapons violation. While pursuing one of the suspects, the officer in question was ambushed by the other suspect and shot.

Here in DC last month, law enforcement officers on duty at the White House Correspondents' Dinner responded when an individual darted through a security checkpoint with the intent of assassinating the President and members of his administration. One officer was shot, fortunately in the vest.

The job of a law enforcement officer is an unpredictable one. Of course, all of life has uncertainty, but when most of us depart our houses every day, we can be pretty certain that we will return that evening the same way we left that morning—in safety.

Police officers, law enforcement officers, don't have that same assurance. The job of a police officer is unpredictable. Some days might be very quiet—helping a stranded motorist, writing a speeding ticket, chatting with kids about police work at a school function—but other days—other days—a police officer might respond to a call and be confronted with a gunman.

Law enforcement officers never know what kind of day it will be. The Secret Service agent leaving her house in the morning doesn't know whether she will have to throw herself between her principal and danger before nightfall. The sheriff's deputy serving a warrant doesn't know whether it will be a peaceful event or whether he will confront a volley of bullets. Yet, every day, men and women across this country embrace their jobs in law enforcement. They are born protectors who willingly shoulder the risks and dangers to keep them away from the rest of us.

This week, we honor them. This week, we observe National Police Week to honor the service and sacrifice of our Nation's law enforcement officers. Tomorrow, we observe National Peace Officers Memorial Day—a day to remember the men and women of law enforcement who have given their lives in the line of duty.

This year's Police Week resolution notes that in 2025, more than 200 officers were killed in the line of duty—200 men and women who left their homes in the morning and failed to return to it at the end of the day.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

For these men and women, we were all their friends.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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As we honor the service and sacrifice of our Nation's law enforcement officers, we also need to honor their families because their families also serve. They say goodbye in the morning to a husband or wife, a mom or a dad, son or a daughter, with the knowledge always at the back of their minds that their loved one may not come home at the end of the day. And every year, for some law enforcement families, that fear comes true, and this week and every week, we should remember them.

This Police Week, I want to say a special thank-you to South Dakota law enforcement officers—police officers, sheriff's deputies, State troopers, Tribal police, and the Federal officers who serve our State.

I am grateful for all you do to keep South Dakotans safe.

I also want to thank the officers of the Capitol Police, who stand guard in this building every hour of every day.

We are able to work in safety because of your efforts.

Mr. President, we live in a fallen world, and there will always be men and women out there with evil intent. We are blessed to have so many heroic men and women willing to put their lives on the line to protect us.

To all of our Nation's law enforcement officers, today and every day, thank you.

May God bless and protect you as you go about your work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ECONOMY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, every day, Americans see headlines about rising prices.

Just this week, The Economist said: "America faces another grocery-price shock."

CNN: "America is in for yet another long spell of price pain."

PBS News: "Iran war hits home as gasoline prices fuel significant U.S. inflation jump."

Trump will surely try to brush aside these reports of higher costs as "fake news," but Americans don't need to see the headlines to know we are in an affordability crisis. Americans feel the crushing weight of higher costs caused by Trump's disastrous war and failed economic policies every time they

walk through the grocery aisle and step up to the gas pump.

What Americans do not see is any sympathy, any support, or any plan from Trump and congressional Republicans to lower costs. In fact, they see the opposite.

The other day, Trump said:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about [anyone].

Trump's clueless comments make my blood boil. "I don't think about [anyone]?" They make Americans' blood boil. Americans can't understand how a President can be so cold, so callous, and so proud of it.

Donald Trump doesn't think about how every time Americans go to the pump, they are paying over \$4.50 for a gallon of gasoline—up more than \$1.50 since Trump started this war.

Donald Trump doesn't think about how a family's weekly trip to the grocery store got even more expensive, with food prices going up in April more than in any month in the past 4 years.

Trump certainly doesn't think about how wholesale inflation just hit 6 percent—the highest it has been in nearly 4 years.

Donald Trump doesn't think about you, America.

Trump is really wrong when he says he doesn't think about anyone. He thinks about himself and only himself, as his past comments have shown.

Donald Trump thinks about how badly he wants the American people to bankroll his \$1 billion ballroom. If "ballroom Republicans" won't think about the economic suffering of the American people, then they had better start thinking long and hard about their own political futures.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on China, we are just a day into Trump's trip to China, and he hasn't done anything to ease concerns that he might sell out America. He arrived with a posse of billionaires in tow, including his own son, who oversees the family business.

This kind of stuff is just incredible.

So much for fighting against how China is hurting American workers and poisoning our communities with fentanyl. That would get in the way of Donald Trump and his family profiting off of doing business with the Chinese Communist Party—just hours in, and Xi Jinping has already threatened to "collide or even clash" with the United States if we continue our support for Taiwan. Trump, apparently, didn't say anything in response. He was just mute.

For the sake of democracy and the stability of the global economy, Trump must not sell out Taiwan.

Trump must also safeguard the interests of American workers, families, and businesses.

Trump is continuing to roll forward on selling AI chips to Chinese companies that are linked to the Chinese

military. Giving China access to this premiere American technology—something we developed with our know-how, our entrepreneurship, our ingenuity—and just giving it away to China? That is dangerous and threatens the United States' lead in the AI race that is going to shape the global economy for decades.

And chips aren't the only way Trump is selling out America. Trump is undermining American autoworkers by letting Chinese vehicles flood the market, and that is something he is very much considering.

Communities across this country continue to suffer as Trump fails to secure real meaningful action from Xi to stem the tide of fentanyl that is flowing into our country from China.

If Xi outnegotiates Trump—and that has happened almost every time he has negotiated with him in the past—it will undercut American manufacturers and workers who have long been hurt by the CCP's predatory trade practices.

When Trump does these negotiations, the only thing he is looking for is a headline so he can see himself on the front page of the newspaper. He doesn't think of what will happen a day after, and it hurts America every time.

If Xi outnegotiates Trump and if America emerges from these negotiations weaker than it was before, there will be only one person to blame: Donald Trump.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Iran, every day the costs of Trump's disastrous handling of his illegal war with Iran mount up. The most dire cost is human: 13 American servicemembers killed, nearly 400 wounded. They served with valor. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to them, their families, and their brothers and sisters in arms who remain in harm's way.

But that is not the only way the war has cost us, as bad as that is. Trump's war has cost the American taxpayer at least—at least—\$29 billion—billion dollars. The war with Iran has cost American families financially, causing inflation to spiral out of control, gas prices to skyrocket, grocery costs to climb.

Trump's reckless war has also cost America strategically. Hundreds of installations in the region have been damaged. America's reputation on the world stage has been further tarnished. American munitions stockpiles are shrinking at a time when we need them to deter other aggressors around the world.

All for what? What is his goal here? He hasn't achieved any of them.

Americans have paid dearly for Trump's blunder in Iran in exchange for little or no gain. The American people may not be benefitting from Trump's war, but our competitors, our rivals across the globe, certainly are. Vladimir Putin couldn't be happier with the Iran war, as Russia rakes in record profits from its energy exports,